NEWS

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Assistant U.S. Attorneys HOWARD WIENER DIANA V. CARRIG 856-968-4869 and 856- 968-4927, respectively lewi0514.rel FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 14, 2009

Leader of Camden Drug Gang Sentenced to Life plus 120 Months In Federal Prison on Murder and Drug Charges

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CAMDEN – The leader of a Camden drug trafficking organization was sentenced to life plus 120 months in federal prison today for his conviction on federal drug and murder charges for his leadership role in a drug distribution conspiracy and ordering a murder in furtherance of the organization's operations, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas, who presided over the nine-week trial, also ordered Jevon Lewis, 34, of Cherry Hill, a.k.a. "V" and "Cool V," to pay restitution to the murder victim's estate, an amount that will be determined at a hearing scheduled for July 20.

"A few years ago, at a time when Camden was ranked a top a list of the most dangerous cities, we set out on a mission to bring greater resources to the fight against drugs and gangs in the City of Camden," Marra said. "Today's sentencing of a violent criminal to life in a federal prison -- as well as many other successful prosecutions of violent gang members -- demonstrate the successes that a united law enforcement community can achieve to curb violence and improve Camden neighborhoods."

Lewis was convicted by a federal jury on March 7, 2008, along with co-defendants Ahmed Judge, 32, of Camden, a.k.a. "Edy" and "Bleek," and Mack Jones, 36, a.k.a. "Bear," of Camden. After only seven hours of deliberations, a federal jury found Lewis and Judge, who was an enforcer for Lewis' drug organization, guilty on one count each of drug distribution conspiracy; murder while engaged in that conspiracy; and murder in the course of a firearms offense. Judge was also convicted of one count of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon, for possessing the murder weapon. Judge Irenas sentenced Judge to life plus 120 months in federal prison on April 22, 2009.

The jury also returned a guilty verdict against Jones on one count of drug distribution conspiracy. Jones was the leader of a separate long-term, large-scale drug trafficking organization in Camden. When sentenced, Jones faces a mandatory life sentence because of his two prior felony drug convictions.

In convicting the three defendants, the jury found that Jones, Lewis, Judge and others conspired between 1993 and March 2003 with others, including Raymond Morales, to distribute and possess with intent to distribute large amounts of cocaine and crack cocaine. The jury also found that Lewis and Judge, while engaging in that conspiracy, intentionally caused the Oct. 4, 2001, murder of Kenneth Fussell in Camden.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diana V. Carrig and Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

The Indictment charging Lewis, Judge and Jones, along with other federal Indictments and Complaints that charged 13 additional defendants and the filing of state charges against 35 suspects, were offshoots of a long-term cooperative investigation that culminated in the March 8, 2003, arrests and subsequent Indictment of six defendants, including Morales, 37, of Camden

"DEA is proud to be an integral part of the successful law enforcement coalition dispensing justice to those undermining progress in this city," said DEA Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer."

"This was a case that involved cooperation among a number of law enforcement agencies," Camden County Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk said. "We are pleased this dangerous individual was sentenced to an appropriately lengthy term."

On May 31, 2007, authorities for the first time announced that Morales had pleaded guilty on July 27, 2005, to a nine-count Superseding Information and was cooperating with the government. The Superseding Information to which Morales pleaded guilty charged him with six counts of ordering a murder in furtherance of a Continuing Criminal Enterprise ("CCE"); one count of witness tampering by ordering the attempted murder of a witness; one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine; and one count of being a principal administrator of a CCE that operated in Camden from 1993 until 2003. Morales has been in custody since March 2003, and faces up to seven life sentences.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Irenas consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

Marra credited the Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer in Newark, and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor Office Homicide Unit, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, with the investigation.

Marra also thanked the member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force for their assistance in the investigation. The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force is comprised of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, The Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, Camden Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Philadelphia Police Department, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diana V. Carrig and Howard Wiener of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lewis - David Rudenstein, Esq. Merchantville